UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1997/NGO/1
24 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH/
SPANISH

Substantive session of 1997
Geneva, 30 June-25 July 1997
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda*

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO ALL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996.

* E/1997/100.

97-17228 (E) 260697

/...

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

PLACE DU PETIT-SACONNEX
1211 GENEVA 19 (SWITZERLAND)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50 - TELEFAX (41.22) 733 31 41 - E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS - INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE - TELEX 414217 IPU CH

ECOSOC
Substantive session 1997
C - Coordination segment
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM RELATED TO THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

(a) Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Written statement submitted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

At the invitation of the Parliament of India, the Inter-Parliamentary Union held, from 14 to 18 February 1997 in New Delhi, a Specialised Inter-Parliamentary Conference on « *Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics* ». In a resolution on the follow-up to this Conference, adopted on 15 April 1997 in Seoul, the Inter-Parliamentary Union subsequently made arrangements for mechanisms to see to it that the concerns of women and men are taken into account equally in all aspects of national policies and in all of the activities of the Union itself.

In this connection, **the main recommendations set out in the resolution - which could inspire similar steps within the United Nations system** - are as follows:

The Inter-Parliamentary Council (...)

5. *Notes* that the work of the Conference clearly showed that political life is still dominated by men and that the majority of parliamentary assemblies are still overwhelmingly or entirely composed of men, and *points out with interest* that the debates made it possible to identify proposals for practical measures to remedy this unsatisfactory situation; *urges* that such measures are taken, notably by governments, parliaments and political parties, so that politics may better reflect and interpret the national population in its dual composition and is carried out in a spirit of partnership, a consolidating factor of democracy;

6. *Urges* those countries in which women are barred by law to take part in the electoral process to remove this obstacle and to utilise the measures recommended by the New Delhi Conference so as to advance women's participation in politics;

7. *Notes with particular interest* that for the first time in the history of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an equal proportion of men and women MPs took part in the New Delhi Conference, which greatly contributed to the value of the debates and strengthens the validity of the recommendations adopted;

8. *Wishes* that all the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will henceforth take into account more constantly and explicitly than in the past the need to act in the spirit of partnership between men and women; and *decides*, with this in mind, to establish within the Executive Committee, without financial implications, a partnership-watch group consisting of a maximum of two women and two men, entrusted with seeing to

it that the interests and visions of both parts of the population are taken into account equally; the biannual report to the IPU Council on the activities of the Executive Committee should include information on the work of this partnership-watch group and action taken on its recommendations;

9. *Calls on* this partnership-watch group to hold in-depth consultations on the possibility of establishing in the Union a rule which would apply equally to all delegations failing to include at least one woman among their members and which would decrease by two the number of votes to which those delegations would be entitled at the IPU Conference; *requests* the group to present its conclusions to the Executive Committee in April 1998 at the latest;

10. *Recommends* that, within each drafting committee of the Study Committees of the IPU Conference, two to four members (the number of men and women being equal) be specifically entrusted with ensuring that the interests and visions of both parts of the population are taken into account equally;

11. *Encourages* each parliament, particularly at the level of its bureau or governing body, to take measures similar to those set out in the above paragraphs; (...);

13. *Also suggests* the creation in each country of organisations whose main mission would be to encourage and prepare women and men to contribute to national politics in a spirit of partnership and which would draw from the talents and experience of trainers of either sex (...).